

The series of hearings of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that took a brief recess today are remarkable in a number of ways.

They represent an effort by at least a major fraction of the Senate to recapture prerogatives usurped from the Senate by the President and the Executive branch.

They represent an open conflict with the President on Foreign Policy.

They represent an effort to go over the head of the President and the Executive branch to inform the people of the issues and the situation, with all the potential to horrible to contemplate, to correct the manifestly misleading and false representations and concepts of the administration, which are not short of wilful lying.

And for perhaps the first time in at least recent history they show that virtually the entire foreign relations committee, made up as it is of members of both parties and men who within each party disagree among themselves on most policies, are agree in their opposition to what the administration has done and clearly plans to do. The sole conspicuous exception is Symington, who passionately speaks the already disproved theories of the Air Force and the War Hawks, who piously prates non sequiturs as though they were gospel and is simultaneously entirely unaware of the vacuity of his statements.

The witnesses are used as sounding boards, at which the Senators direct that which they want echoed throughout the land. With the extensive TV and radio coverage, the Senators have a vast audience. In fact, the willingness of the electronic media to contribute the valuable time, which for the most part would have returned extensive revenues, is a reflection of the deep concern of the country, despite the polls and the president's nonchalant pretense to the contrary, and of their own personal concern or their opposition to what the President has done and is doing. The amount of money this has and yet will cost the networks is great.

It all stems from the mistake one would have least expected the President to make, of all Presidents, to show his contempt for the Senate. It is the kind of mistake his kind of man could make under only the greatest frustration, for he above all politicians in recent years had his own and eminently successful method of dealing with his colleagues, both as President and as majority leader. This has meant an abrupt alteration in the situation. Until his insulting answer to those members of his own party who addressed an appeal to him, which followed and preceded individual insults, how he was,

without doubt, the President who above all others, if not in history at least in recent years could and did more completely work his will in the legislature.